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## EVENTS CALENDAR

**AUGUST**  
**Regular Yoga Classes**  
 Gentle Yoga | Mon | 10am | Tryphena Hall  
 Hatha/Vinyasa | Tue | 5.30pm | Okiwi Kura  
 Hatha Yoga | Fri | 10am | Glenfern  
 General Yoga | Sat | 10am | Tryphena Hall

**16 AUG**  
**Driver & Vehicle Licensing**  
 Council Service Centre | 11:30am - 1:30pm  
 For enquiries about Driver Licensing  
 please call: 0800 822422

**17 AUG. FINAL ON 24 AUG**  
**Aotea Poker League**  
 Beginners & All Welcome  
 Registration from 6pm, starts 7pm  
 Tryphena Social Club  
 There will be two lucky seat prizes

**19 & 26 AUG**  
**Island Screens**  
 'Great Escaper' & 'Master Gardener'  
 Kitchen from 5:30pm | Movie at 7:15pm  
 Entry \$10 | \$15 for non members  
 Tryphena Social Club

**22 & 23 AUG**  
**Peter Thorburn Workshops**  
 Details within

**23 AUG**  
**Art Gallery Reopening & Exhibition Launches**  
 See banner below

**25 AUG**  
**Community Boat Wash Facility Feedback Drop-In Event**  
 5 - 6:30pm  
 Claris Conference Centre

**27 AUG**  
**Local Board Ordinary Meeting**  
 1pm  
 Claris Conference Centre

**31 AUG**  
**Barrier Mid-Winter Ball**  
 Barrier Social Club  
 Presenting The Fleetwoods  
 Tickets \$40 before 15 Aug. \$50 after

**7 SEP**  
**Floorplay Trio**  
 Currach Irish Pub  
 Public B-day Party for Matty & Jen  
 60's & Austin Powers Theme

All events can be found online at [www.greatbarrier.co.nz/events](http://www.greatbarrier.co.nz/events)

## EXPEDITION EXCERPTS FROM JOHN OGDEN

It is time to put the events of Sunday 28th July behind me, but a few points are worth making. First and foremost - "thank you" to all those who helped get me out of the situation into which I had put myself and supported Jenni as she worried about me. They say it takes a village to raise a child; well, it seems it takes a community and more to stop an "elderly man" from behaving like a child. In particular I thank the Police, especially the LandSARS team (Steve and Pat) who were dropped in from the Eagle helicopter to help me get to a safer position for an air-lift. All very professional, well equipped, fit and competent.

Likewise, our local police (Roger and Andy) kept in touch with the rescue pair and with Jenni in a supportive and professional manner. The Westpac helicopter arrived soon after but thought the situation too dangerous to lift me off due to wind and darkness; we had to ascend higher to the ridge top for rescue in the morning. To the helicopter pilots, especially the person flying the Eagle very low over irregular windshorne bush and rocky outcrops in the dark looking for me, finding me, and somehow dropping off my rescuers - thankyou. I was very pleased to hear your "seen you" hooter. Thank you too to the Coastguards from Tryphena. I know you were out there in the dark looking for me. I could hear you but you couldn't hear my whistle due to the wind. The Westpac team arrived exactly as they had radioed on Monday morning. My thanks go out to them, and to the young woman, whose name I immediately forgot, who descended from the Westpac helicopter and whisked me up. They soon had me in the Health Centre in Claris, where Tania ascertained that there was nothing wrong with me except a lot of scratches and very cold feet looking a bit like battered fish fillets. Out of my ruined wetsuit and warmed with tea and blankets I was taken home for a sleep.

So what has been learned? Well, quite a lot, but the main point is that I should never have set off on that expedition down that coast (which I know quite well) in the winter with shorter days. The sore hips, preventing me paddling and balancing properly in the kayak as the sea got bigger on the return were an unanticipated problem. My exit strategy to the small boulder beach worked, but I totally underestimated the steepness, distance and difficulty of the climb up to the ridge south of Goat Hill. And I overestimated my ability. That wind-shorn manuka with tall

heather and cutty grass is almost impenetrable and the situation, without a torch, became serious once it was dark.

I suffer from a condition called Raynaud's syndrome, in which finger-tips become totally numb if they are cold. I knew that, but never knew it would prevent me from sliding off the catch on my Epirb to release the aerial, or the cover to the activation button. I could neither feel nor see either.



Now here is the crucial point for anyone with a similar device. There are two types of Emergency Beacon; Epirb (Emergency Position Indicator Radio Beacon) and PLB (Personal Locator Beacon). Mine was not actually an EPIRB (as I have been incorrectly calling it) it was a PLB. Years ago, when deciding what to get, I read that PLBs are small and suitable for use both in the bush and in a kayak so I thought that was what I wanted.

Both EPIRB and PLBs must be registered to Maritime New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre and both are monitored by them. But Maritime NZ only regulates EPIRBs with a Solas (wheel) insignia. So don't be confused by 'register' and 'regulate'; read the small print.

Check out the actual manufacturer's specifications. In particular, make sure the device itself, rather than just the case, has a lanyard and will float. Perhaps the MNZ Rescue Coordination Centre could have pointed this out when I registered it, but that is not their responsibility; they neither regulate such products nor make comments on their design, though they do monitor them and should pick up the signal if it is activated just as with bigger EPIRBs. So, I basically had the wrong device for use on a kayak. However, I never tried to use it on my kayak - I was in the bush when I tried.

*Continued inside...*

**Next Submission Deadline:** 9 September by 10am | **Next Issue Available:** 12 September  
*Please Note:* We have decided to only publish one issue in September.  
**Looking to make a submission or advertise?** Email us on [AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com](mailto:AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com)

## Art Gallery Reopening & Exhibit Launch

**Join us on Friday 23 August | 4 - 6pm | All Welcome**

Book Launch - 'Dancing with Dragons' by Jenni Ogden

Tamariki Toi Exhibition | 23 August - 10 September

Cartoon Exhibition by Peter Edmonds | 23 August - 10 September



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## AoteaOra

## PETE THORBURN RETURNS

Sessions on: youth resilience, masculinity, and supporting people with addiction.



Thursday 22 August - 11am - Aotea Learning Hub - **Rangatahi strength and resiliency.** Ages 12-21

Thursday 22 August - 6-7:30pm - Medlands Haven - **Masculinity, alcohol and anger management.**

Friday 23 August - 10-11:30am - Claris Conference Centre - **Supporting friends or family with addiction**

For more information contact [kathy.cumming@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:kathy.cumming@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

FREE - no need to book



## SMALL ISLAND, BIG IDEAS

### "OUTSIDE IN" EVENT

Small Island Big Ideas (SIBI) latest project is a podcast series that connects Aotea to other small (in fact, tiny) islands around the world which have undergone some sort of transformation through realising a 'big idea'.

Thanks to community support and suggestions, the SIBI team of Tim Higham, Sandy Burgham and Bree Biederman are undergoing research and outreach to a number of islands all quite unique in their reinvention. So far they have recorded three episodes and hope to get to ten.

The series will be launched in the first week of September during the Festival of Adult Learning, who are one of the sponsors of the series.

Watch this space and if you know of a small island somewhere in the world with an inspiring transformation story, contact the team at [tim@smallislandbigideas.co.nz](mailto:tim@smallislandbigideas.co.nz)

## Aotea fm GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

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## EXPEDITION EXCERPTS CONTINUED...

The day before I had checked the PLB. It is in a small tight case (with a neck strap) which is opened by a zip. The zipper puller is small and I found it hard to unzip, so I put CRC on it. In retrospect I should have put a loop of cord through the puller so it could be pulled harder.

Once out of the case the PLB has no lanyard and nowhere to fasten one. I slid off the aerial catch with my thumbnail and tested the device - battery, strobe light etc all indicated OK now.

So, when I tried on Sunday night I knew what to do, but with cold fingers I couldn't do it. What is just a bit stiff when sitting on the deck at home, becomes impossible with frozen fingers in the dark. I got it out of the case OK but had to hold the device in one hand while attempting to get it going with the other. Couldn't risk dropping it with nothing around my neck. So I guess the learning here is to make sure you have a suitable device and have practiced operating it in the dark (without setting it off!). Ideally have a second device also, although cell phones don't work everywhere (including the steep slopes in my location) they do have a light, which even random tapping will eventually illuminate. If your potential use is primarily marine make sure you get an MNZ 'solas' (wheel) device which floats and has a lanyard.

I do not put any blame on MNZ (Rescue Coordination) - their website has a lot of excellent advice for anyone going out paddling on the ocean. The fault was mine alone. And my retrospective advice is, if you know the location could be hard to get out of due to a sea change, available time, old age, or whatever, just sit on the beach instead. Then you'll not have to give sincere apologies for putting wife, family and friends to awful worry, and many others to inconvenience or risk.

My PLB is KTi GPS PLB (Kinetic Technology) model SA2G. The ariel slider seems very easy now, but I don't recommend it.

Words by John Ogden.

## ROBYN MARGARET JOYNES OBITUARY

(nee Goodison, formerly Scrimgeour)

23 December - 7 July 2024.



"The staff at Aotea Health have been absolutely awesome throughout Robyn's journey. Also Aotea Family Support and caregiver Julie Moore. The care and support that Robyn received from both groups was not unique to her alone. We know that you deliver exceptional service across the Barrier community and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Robyn remained in command until the end. When she realized that her body was worn out she let go and went easily and quickly. We are grateful she is longer in pain.

A service was held at Barrier Social Club on 12 July with family and friends, and then we laid her to rest at Gooseberry Flat cemetery. Special thanks to Mallory Thompson William Parkes and the past pupils of Mulberry Grove School who were pallbearers, and to Ron Berry and the Barrier Social Club for hosting the celebration of Robyn's life."

Read in full online about Robyn's amazing and varied life story both throughout the world and on the Barrier from her brother Ian Goodison.

## LOVE FOOD, NOT WASTE

Here are great ways to reduce food waste:

**Reduce at source:** The Love Food Hate Waste website [lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz](http://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz) has some great tips on food storage and recipes for left overs.

**Sharing with others:** Share with neighbours or deliver non perishable food and fresh produce to one of our pātaka kai (community pantry)-outside Mulberry Grove and Okiwi Schools, in front of the community gardens at Medlands, at Anamata (where a new and improved pātaka kai is in progress) or canned food can be dropped off at the airport.

**Feed animals or compost:** We are lucky to have room at most properties on Aotea to safely return food scraps to the soil to feed plants. If you'd like to learn more about composting you can **get in touch with Caity Endt, our Food Resilience coordinator**, for tips and tricks or look up the Compost Collective website for information.

**Don't have a home compost?**

**Deliver to a community compost bin** at Medlands Community Garden and Mulberry Grove School, or Anamata accepts all food scraps (during open hours).

**Return to the soil without composting:**

**Bury fish and other food scraps** near a tree or in a garden to let it break down and release nutrients and organic matter to feed soil and plants.

**Purchase a Greencone biodigester** to install in a sunny, easily accessible spot in your garden. These are designed to take up to an icecream container of food waste a day. Check the advert on the right or visit:

[www.anamata.nz](http://www.anamata.nz)

Words by Anamata



## KAITOKE SCHOOL KITCHEN MATERIALS

A group of architecture students from University of Auckland are on the hunt for building materials to help them design and build a bespoke 'shed' like structure for an unconventional, food preparation and cooking station for the kids at Kaitoke School.

They are looking for:

- > Polycarbonate sheeting
- > Timber
- > Maritime rope/pulleys
- > Fixings
- > Bricks
- > Steel beams and trusses

...or anything weird and wonderful!

They will be on island 26th - 28th August to do a school visit and buzz around the island to collect any donated materials.

Think you might have something suitable?

Contact Louis on [lfox537@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:lfox537@aucklanduni.ac.nz) or 021 895 558



## CAR PARK CAMERAS INSTALLED

In case you missed the headline in the NZ Herald. There are now car parking cameras installed at the entrance to the seven day car parking area at Claris Airport. This is the carpark on the right as you go into the airport. These cameras have been installed by Auckland Transport and are to monitor those that overstay in that car park. Tickets will be issued to those who overstay.

We would highly recommend moving your car if has been or is going to be parked there for more than seven days.



## BUSINESS OWNERS, SOLE TRADERS AND ENTERPRISING INDIVIDUALS

Would you be interested in regular meet ups and mini networking events with like-minded people? Are you keen to upskill in areas like accounting, digital skills, social media, marketing, sales and more? There are others on the island keen to start meeting, learning together and supporting one another.

If you are interested, get in touch.

Text: 027 616 4756 Email: lkdixon1993@gmail.com

## MPI FRONTS UP ABOUT CAN

John Walsh, Director of Pest Management for Biosecurity NZ and his team fronted up at the recent hui last Thursday to ask for input into the future of the CAN. The Controlled Area Notice (CAN) limits anchoring on the west coast of Aotea and was extended on 1 December 2023 to cover an area from Cape Barrier in the south to Motuhaku at the entrance to Port Abercrombie because caulerpa has spread.

Before the community hui, MPI had met with members of the Aotea Caulerpa Response Team - the new Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea led island response. The message given at that meeting was clear - focus on the plan to stop the spread of caulerpa not on the CAN.

The ACRT want to open up Whangaparapara and Tryphena harbours to visiting boats this summer whilst keeping Port Abercrombie and Port Fitzroy open. Anchoring restrictions in the Caulerpa infested areas beyond the harbours could remain in place. Aotea has dense *Caulerpa brachypus* infestations that MPI doesn't want taken to other places in the Gulf, Coromandel or Northland, and many people agree that's not on. But others say enough is enough and the focus should be on education of boaters and anchor cleaning and letting people come here to fish.

Biosecurity NZ would like to hear the views of people and groups affected, or interested in, the use of Controlled Area Notices (CANs).

**You can complete the survey here:**

[www.mpi.surveymonkey.com/r/5CR596G](http://www.mpi.surveymonkey.com/r/5CR596G)

Read the full article online. Words by the ACRT

## PŌHUTUKAWAS PLANTED AT AWANA

In July, we hosted three conservation volunteers for a few days on Aotea to support the planting of over 700 trees.

Amy Dent, a marine biologist, and Tejo Schie a retired physio doing full-time conservation volunteering including guiding on Tiritiri Matangi, arrived on the boat. They were joined by Andrea Oberg, a visitor centre Ranger/Kaitiaki Manuhiri and Hut Warden host who is normally found helping people visiting the Tongariro National Park.

We headed out to plant 70 pōhutukawa trees at Awana Beach campsite - these hearty trees will provide shelter and shade for the campers in years to come.



Following that we planted a whopping 687 mixed native trees at Woolshed wetland in Okiwi. The 23 different species of plants we have grown for the wetland help build up a better habitat for pāteke to roost and take shelter from pūkeko and harriers. Over the years, the area has become a home for other native bird species - the threatened matukuhūrepo/Australasian bittern, kakariki and tūi.

In total our team of six planted 757 trees!

All seeds are eco sourced from Aotea and locally grown in our nursery by our DOC biodiversity rangers. Our nursery plants support two campgrounds, wetland areas and around the DOC office.

Words by Cara Fraider, DOC

## GOAT NOTES

After years of concerted effort by local and off island contractors Aotea / Great Barrier Island was declared free of feral goats in 2006. Given its rugged terrain and the considerable effort that was required to access some areas, the eradication of feral goats from the island was (and still is) a significant milestone. On Aotea, goat browsing was causing serious damage to vegetation cover and density, also causing the loss of plant species and preventing forest regeneration. This harm was particularly noticeable in the Te Paparahi block and around the coastal fringes of the island where the understory was browsed out and larger trees ringbarked.

To protect Aotea's feral goat free status, rules were introduced to prevent the possibility of re-introduction, and at the same time to provide the opportunity for residents to keep recognized breeds of dairy goats. These criteria were set up to ensure that domestic goats did not become feral, and to easily distinguish domestic goats from feral goats.

The Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 describes what breeds of goats can be kept and the set criteria they may be kept under.

If fencing criteria is met, the following breeds of goats may be transported within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled area to Aotea: British alpine, toggenburg, nubian, saanen, or sable dairy goat.

Regardless of breed, the definition of a feral goat includes any goat that is not: a) held behind effective fences or otherwise constrained; and b) identified in accordance with an animal identification device approved under the National Animal Identification and Tracing Act 2012.

Vegetation cover and understory across the motu has seen a vast improvement in the 18 years since goats were removed. With multiple species such as Kohekohe, Mahoe and Houpara making a strong recovery.

If you would like more information,

visit: [shorturl.at/RbFZY](http://shorturl.at/RbFZY)

Words by Jeremy Warden, Auckland Council Biosecurity

## AOTEA'S UNWANTED UMBRELLA



Water Pennywort (Hydrocotyle Umbellata) is currently an eradication species on Aotea, it is native to North America and parts of South America. Water Pennywort can grow as a creeping plant or floating mat depending on conditions. It spreads by rhizomes underground. It can spread through stem fragments that break off during floods and grow from dumped garden waste. It forms dense mats that outcompete all other plants, you can see this example in the photo attached out in Lord Howe Island where it is a major pest plant. It could hybridise with native Hydrocotyle species as well. Currently there are only a few localised infestations on Aotea, Water Pennywort is something we want to contain and not to spread into our world class wetlands on Aotea. If you see, report it.

Words by Nik Erikson, Auckland Council Biosecurity

## SEALINK 20% OFF RESIDENTS CARD

Residents of the island can now receive 20% off on bookings with SeaLink (Retail travel only on most fare types).

You can sign-up online. You will need a photo for ID purposes and proof of address - utility bill, rates bill or similar.

You will be given access to the resident portal, where you can make bookings and the 20% off will be applied at check out.

When you travel you must show your digital residents's card to the team.

Visit: [www.sealink.co.nz/memberships](http://www.sealink.co.nz/memberships)

## LOCAL BOARD & ZERO WASTE GRANTS

Applications are now open for **Aotea / Great Barrier Local & Capital Grant round one**. Funding of up to \$50,000 available. Closes 30 August 2024

Visit: [www.tinyurl.com/3rhzbc68](http://www.tinyurl.com/3rhzbc68)

Applications are now open for **Auckland Council Waste Minimisation Fund**. Grant value \$1000 - \$50,000. Closes 31 August 2024

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## GET INVOLVED

Auckland Council is working towards eradicating and keeping out a number of high risk pest plant species from Aotea. We need your help to hunt these plants out.



- ✓ Visit [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org)
- ✓ Join project 'Aotea High Risk Weeds'
- ✓ Identify and record your weedy find!



[pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Auckland Council



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Photo by Chris Morton

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